

15 September 2020

Our ref: 6527200

Thank you for your request received on 17 August 2020, for the following information:

I hope you are well. I would be grateful if you would treat this correspondence as a formal request for disclosure of the following information, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("FoI").

Description of information sought:

How many regular car parking bays are there in all of the council-owned car parks across the council area?

How many disabled car parking bays are there in all of the council-owned car parks across the council area?

How many people held a blue badge disabled parking permit issued by the council as at 30 August 2019?

How many applications for blue badge disabled parking permits has the council received since 30 August 2019?

How many of these applications for blue badge disabled parking permits received since 30 August 2019 has the council:

1. Approved
2. Directly refused
3. Refused due to an incomplete request

How many applications for blue badge disabled parking permits has the council received from applicants with hidden/non-visible disabilities (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/people-with-hidden-disabilities-can-access-blue-badges-for-the-first-time-from-today>) since 30 August 2019?

How many of these applications for blue badge disabled parking permits received from applicants with hidden/non-visible disabilities (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/people-with-hidden-disabilities-can-access-blue-badges-for-the-first-time-from-today>) since 30 August 2019 has the council:

1. Approved
2. Directly refused
3. Refused due to an incomplete request

Could the council please provide the answers to all of the above questions by downloading this read-only GoogleSheet [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fRSfXL3AoLbFXyKoS1NGnZo7vWHf\\_x97JjIN1t8BAZY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fRSfXL3AoLbFXyKoS1NGnZo7vWHf_x97JjIN1t8BAZY/edit?usp=sharing) and filling out its answers in one row of the download, re-saving it and it sending it back as an attachment in response in a .csv file format?

If I am mistaken and the information requested is already in the public domain, please direct me to where I can find it.

If it is not, and you feel you cannot provide all of this information, please provide what information you can in the spirit of Section 16 of FoI, to 'provide advice and assistance, so far as it would be reasonable to expect the authority to do so, to persons who propose to make, or have made requests for information'.

Please provide me with a summary of the information I have requested.

We have processed this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

## **Response**

***I hope you are well. I would be grateful if you would treat this correspondence as a formal request for disclosure of the following information, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("FoI").***

### ***Description of information sought:***

***How many regular car parking bays are there in all of the council-owned car parks across the council area?***

Please see attached spreadsheet.

***How many disabled car parking bays are there in all of the council-owned car parks across the council area?***

Please see attached spreadsheet.

***How many people held a blue badge disabled parking permit issued by the council as at 30 August 2019?***

Data on Blue Badge applications and badges is held within a system provided by the Department for Transport. The Department for Transport introduced a new system in February 2019.

2941 Blue Badges have been issued since February 2019, up until 30 August 2019.

We do not hold data on badges issued prior to February 2019 as these were held within the predecessor system.

The Department for Transport publishes annual statistics Blue Badges which includes a breakdown by local authority. The latest statistics for 2019 can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/blue-badge-scheme-statistics-2019>

With the dataset DIS0108 (Valid Blue Badges held: England, by Local Authority 2019) the figure for Barnet was 13397

***How many applications for blue badge disabled parking permits has the council received since 30 August 2019?***

Application data cannot be exported from the system, and the Council does not currently have a customer management system which is integrated with the Department for Transport system, which would allow us to export application data for the specific date range requested. Therefore we are unable to provide a breakdown of application data as requested within the time limits of the FOIA.

We do however collate monthly statistics, and can confirm that from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31 August the council received 5144 applications for Blue Badge.

***How many of these applications for blue badge disabled parking permits received since 30 August 2019 has the council:***

***1. Approved***

***2. Directly refused***

***3. Refused due to an incomplete request***

Data on Blue Badge applications and badges is held within a system provided by the Department for Transport. The system can provide an extract of all badges held in the system in following data format:

Badge no

Badge status

Party code

Local authority short code

Local authority ref

App date

App channel code

Start date

Expiry date

Eligibility code

Deliver to code

Deliver option code

Cancel reason code

Replace reason code

Order date

Rejected reason

Rejected date time

Issued date time

Print request date time

Transferred from la code

Transferred from date time

Not for reassessment

Application data cannot be exported from the system, and the system does not record the outcome of each application. The Council does not currently have a customer management system which is integrated with the Department for Transport system, which would allow us to export application data. Therefore we are unable to provide a breakdown of application data as requested within the time limits of the FOIA, as this piece of work would have to be carried out manually by cross referencing the applicant details against Blue Badge records.

***How many applications for blue badge disabled parking permits has the council received from applicants with hidden/non-visible disabilities (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/people-with-hidden-disabilities-can-access-blue-badges-for-the-first-time-from-today>) since 30 August 2019?***

Below is a breakdown of Blue Badge applications received to date under the non-visible disabilities criteria which came in on 30 August 2019.

	Total applications received
adults with a non- visible disability	338
children under 18 with a non-visible disability	155
TOTAL	493

The applications above cover the period from 30 August 2019 to 15 September 2020 and so not all of these applications have been processed and outcome determined.

***How many of these applications for blue badge disabled parking permits received from applicants with hidden/non-visible disabilities (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/people-with-hidden-disabilities-can-access-blue-badges-for-the-first-time-from-today>) since 30 August 2019 has the council:***

***1. Approved***

***2. Directly refused***

***3. Refused due to an incomplete request***

Please see above response to question 3.

Below is the estimate of work required to provide responses for questions 5 and 7, to the requestor and total time it would take.

- 2 minutes, per application, to locate the application details within Manage Blue Badges, and record the name and age of the applicant, and the criteria they applied under, within a spreadsheet.
- 5 minutes, per applicant, to check against Manage Blue Badges to determine whether the application was approved, refused, or refused due to an incomplete request. To determine the reason for rejection it would be necessary to also make checks against our customer management system. Then record the outcome in the spreadsheet.
- 7 minutes total processing time per application x 5144 applications = 600 hours
- 30 minutes to check the work, and filter against criteria applied under, to provide data for question 7. Then put the data into tables to be provided to the requestor, and then delete the data spreadsheet containing the personal information of the applicants

This excludes any additional time required for FOI team to check and send the response to the requestor and close the case.

Total time: 600 hours 30 minutes, therefore we are refusing your request under section 12 because we estimate that compliance with your request will exceed the "appropriate limit" under section 12. The appropriate limit is £450 which is equivalent to 18 hours at £25 per hour. The per hour figure is set by Regulations rather than actual salary paid to any officers handling requests. The appropriate limit includes the time it will take the council to discover if it holds the information requested, to locate it, extract it and collate it as well as putting it into any particular format requested by the requester.

***Could the council please provide the answers to all of the above questions by downloading this read-only Google sheet***

***[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fRSfXL3AoLbFXyKoS1NGnZo7vWHf\\_x97JjIN1t8BAzY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fRSfXL3AoLbFXyKoS1NGnZo7vWHf_x97JjIN1t8BAzY/edit?usp=sharing) and filling out its answers in one row of the download, re-saving it and it sending it back as an attachment in response in a .csv file format?***

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***Please provide me with a summary of the information I have requested.***

#### **Further information**

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

#### **Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing**

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

**For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.**

#### **Your rights**

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: [foi@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:foi@barnet.gov.uk). Or by post to Information Management Team (FOI) London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)). There is no charge for making an appeal.